

REMARKS

According to the Office Action, Menjak et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,619,444) discloses “a motor having a simplified loading device (Figure 2), comprising: a stator; a rotor 40; a motor casing 22 comprising said stator and rotor; a motor shaft 31 provided protrusively from said motor casing, supporting said rotor; a housing 36 formed of a non-magnetic material (*see*, column 2, lines 31-33), and the housing assembled to said motor casing”.

However, Menjak et al., at column 2, lines 31-33 states that, “Preferably, MR fluid stopper housing 36 is a ferrous material, but it can be any type of material”. Thus, Menjak does not describe a housing formed of a non-magnetic material.

Carlson (WO 99/06731) is also cited. The claimed invention is distinctly different from Carlson in reciting “an annular disc arranged so that one side face thereof is in contact with an inside wall surface of the housing”. Further, in Carlson, the housing 22a does not hold one side of the permanent magnet 25. The permanent magnet 25 of Carlson is constructed so that it rotates with the shaft. Thus, if the housing 22a in Carlson held one side of the permanent magnet 25, as set forth in claim 1, the permanent magnet 25 could not rotate, and, as a result the shaft also could not rotate.

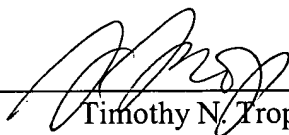
In addition, the Examiner found that Carlson teaches “a magnetic fluid 34a provided between the motor shaft and the inner peripheral faces of the annular discs”. However, the claimed invention and Carlson differ from each other in how the magnetic fluid is provided. See the last clause of amended claim 5.

The formal objections have been addressed by claim amendments.

In view of these remarks, the application should now be in condition for allowance and the Examiner’s prompt action in accordance therewith is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: July 28, 2004



Timothy N. Trop
Registration No. 28,994
TROP, PRUNER & HU, P.C.
8554 Katy Freeway, Ste. 100
Houston, TX 77024
713/468-8880 [Phone]
713/468-8883 [Fax]